GALLINA'S
EGGCITING
ADVENTURES

Introduction

Hello, my name is Gallina.

I'm not your average chicken.
I'm the fastest, smartest, most curious chicken in the whole wide world.

I live on a small farm with my sister and 3 other rescue hens.
The owners of the farm, Mr. Higgle and Miss Piggle, are *very* new to chicken keeping.
They get confused a lot of the time and leave things lying all over the place!

We hens call them the **Higgledy-Piggledies**.

Last week I discovered a black thing in amongst the hay. I tapped it with my beak and it made some high pitched bleeping noises and lit up like the sun was just coming up…

CHAPTER 1

Gallina's Big Discovery

Gallina was no ordinary hen. Her glossy brown feathers shimmered in the sunlight, marking her as the smartest — and fastest — hen in the whole wide world.
She lived on a messy little farm with her bossy sister, Rose, and three rescue hens: Matilda, who was quiet and shy; Maisy, who was always cross; and Doris, who was terribly forgetful.

Their owners, Mr Higgle and Miss Piggle, were new to chicken-keeping and had a habit of leaving tools, clothing, and all sorts of household things scattered everywhere. They were forever losing things.

The hens, rather cheekily, called them the *Higgledy-Piggledies*.

While the others pecked at corn and argued about who was boss, Gallina liked to perch on her favourite wooden beam and gaze at the sunrise, its golden light flickering across the barn's dusty corners. She would tilt her head and drift into deep thought.

What if humans could understand my clucks? she wondered. *I'd get juicy worms, a cool coop for summer, and warm blankets in winter!*

More than anything, Gallina wanted to be understood.

She remembered the time she tried to warn the Higgledy-Piggledies about the broken fence post — but they didn't listen. Mr Higgle went head over heels and landed in a pile of hay.

Another time, she spotted Doris stuck upside down in the water bucket. Gallina had clucked and flapped until her wings ached, but no one noticed.

Luckily, Doris eventually wobbled out on her own, dripping wet and looking rather confused.

Gallina had shared her dream with the other hens, but they just squawked at her.

Maisy, her feathers puffed up in a grump, clucked, "Stop daydreaming, Gallina, and help me tidy the coop!"

Doris, lounging in a dust bath, gave a lazy yawn, while the others bickered over a half-eaten worm.

Just then, something shiny caught Gallina's eye. It was hidden under a pile of hay, glinting in the morning light. She scratched at the straw and uncovered a sleek, black rectangle.

That's no bucket, she thought. *It's… an alien!*

She gave it a tap with her beak. The strange object lit up with glowing symbols and let out soft beeps.

Gallina's eyes widened. *What's it saying?*

She hopped on top of it, and it beeped louder. Suddenly, the screen showed a photo of the Higgledy-Piggledies lying on sunloungers at the beach, grinning in their swimming costumes.

"Bawk!" Gallina squawked in shock. The featherless humans looked like newborn chicks — tiny heads, round bellies!

Panicking, she pecked at the screen to make it stop, when a calm voice boomed out:

"Welcome to AI Translate. Please select a language."

Gallina froze. The voice sounded just like the Higgledy-Piggledies!

"Cluck cluck squawk!" she cried.

The device hummed and replied,
"Translation: I feel scared."

Gallina nearly toppled over.

It had turned her clucks… into human words!

She stared at the glowing screen, beak wide open. Had it really understood her?

She looked around the barn, her heart thumping like a woodpecker on a tree.

This strange device wasn't like the usual jumble the Higgledy-Piggledies left lying about. Had it fallen out of their van? Been dropped by mistake?

Or… had it come from somewhere else entirely?

Behind her, the barn was waking up.

Enjoyed this sneak peek?

Discover the full adventure of Gallina!
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